



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - First Session - 2005
Committee Statement
LB 573

Hearing Date: February 14, 2005

Committee On: General Affairs

Introducer(s): (Dw. Pedersen)

Title: Change provisions relating to horseracing

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Connealy, Cornett, Fischer, Friend, Janssen, Landis, Wehrbein
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Erdman

Proponents:

Senator Dwite Pedersen
Lynn McNally Schuller
Dennis Oelschlager

Representing:

Introducer, District #39
Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association
Nebraska Racing Commission

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 573 revises "takes" of pari-mutuel horseracing wagers for licensees and the State Racing Commission; provides fine-imposing duties to a board of stewards; and raises fines imposed for violation of rules and regulations.

The increased fees will provide additional sources of revenue for the Racing Commission to supplement its budget, and to conduct more drug testing on horses that win races.

Details

Section 1 amends §2-1203, relating to the Nebraska State Racing Commission powers, by changing the amount of a fine that may be imposed upon a racing industry licensee for violation of a rule or regulation from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Deletes the requirement that collected fines be remitted to the State Treasurer for disposition as required under Article VII, Section 5 of the Nebraska Constitution.

Inserts new language allowing a board of stewards (formed under this section) to impose a fine of up to \$1500 upon finding a violation of a rule or regulation. Any such administrative fine levied would be remitted to the State Treasurer for distribution as required under Article VII, Section 5 of the Nebraska Constitution. Adds a discretionary clause to a provision calling for review of a decision or action by the board of stewards by the commission on its own initiative.

Section 2 amends §2-1207, relating to pari-mutuel horseracing wagering, by changing the percentage that a licensee may deduct from the total sum wagered by exotic wagers from 24 to 25. Deletes language that requires each licensed racetrack to increase the deduction amount from the total sum wagered by exotic wagers by 1% over the amount deducted by licensee in 1993.

Section 3 amends §2-1208, relating to taxes and fees for race meetings, by changing the amount to be paid to the State Racing Commission for race meetings from four-tenths to sixty-four one hundredths of 1% of the gross sum wagered by the pari-mutuel method at each licensed racetrack enclosure in a calendar year.

Section 4 repeals the original and revised sections.

Section 5 contains an emergency clause.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment would add language to §2-1213, relating to permitted racing, that would put in place a three-year period in which a licensee has the option of running at least one race on each live racing day which gives preference to Nebraska-bred quarter horses. Current language requires every licensee to hold at least one race on each racing day limited to Nebraska-bred horses.

Senator Ray Janssen, Chairperson